

## CLAIMS

1. In combination:

a portable article;

a first support; and

at least one connecting element for maintaining the portable article in a secured state relative to the first support,

the at least one connecting element comprising at least one arm that overlies a portion of the portable article,

at least a portion of the at least one connecting element at least one of a) is made from a hardened metal material, b) has a stepped configuration, and c) has a shaped non-flat surface so as to be resistant to bending in a manner to allow the portable article to be released from the secured state.

2. The combination according to claim 1 wherein with the portable

article in the secured state the portable article is captive between a part of the at least one connecting element and the first support.

3. The combination according to claim 2 wherein the part of the at least  
2 one connecting element is defined by the at least one arm.

4. The combination according to claim 1 wherein the at least one  
2 connecting element comprises a base which is connected to the first support and  
the at least one arm projects from the base and has a first leg and a second leg  
4 projecting transversely to the first leg and the portable article is captive between  
the second leg and the first support.

5. The combination according to claim 1 wherein the first support is  
2 integral with the connecting element.

6. The combination according to claim 5 wherein at least a part of the  
2 first support is formed as one piece with the connecting element.

7. The combination according to claim 6 further comprising a second  
2 support and a connecting system joined between the first and second supports.

8. The combination according to claim 7 wherein the connecting system  
2 comprises a flexible cable/cord.

2 9. The combination according to claim 8 further comprising an alarm  
system capable of producing a detectable signal as an incident of at least one of  
a) the flexible cable/cord being severed, b) the flexible cable/cord being separated  
4 from the first support and c) the flexible cable/cord being separated from the  
second support.

2 10. The combination according to claim 1 wherein the portion of the at  
least one connecting element has a rib formed therein defining the stepped  
configuration.

2 11. The combination according to claim 1 wherein the portion of the at  
least one connecting element has an "L" shape.

2 12. The combination according to claim 11 wherein the portion of the at  
least one connecting element defines the at least one arm.

2 13. The combination according to claim 5 wherein the connecting  
element and first support have facing surfaces between which the portable article  
is captive.

14. The combination according to claim 1 further comprising a second  
2 connecting element that is separate from the one connecting element, the second  
connecting element comprising a second arm that overlies a portion of the  
4 portable article and cooperates with the one connecting element to maintain the  
portable article in the secured state.

15. The combination according to claim 1 wherein the at least one  
2 connecting element is selectively securable to the first support in a plurality of  
different positions.

16. The combination according to claim 1 wherein the at least one  
2 connecting element has an adjusting state and a fixed state relative to the first  
support, the at least one connecting element in the adjusting state maintained  
4 against separation from the first support and selectively repositionable relative to  
the first support.

17. The combination according to claim 1 wherein the at least one  
2 connecting element comprises a base from which the at least one arm projects  
and the base is connected to the first support.

18. The combination according to claim 17 wherein a fastener extends  
2 into the first support and maintains the at least one connecting element on the first  
support.

19. The combination according to claim 18 wherein the first support  
2 comprises a wall with oppositely facing front and rear surfaces, the fastener  
extends through the front surface so that a part of the fastener is exposed beyond  
4 the rear surface and a securing element is attached to the exposed part of the  
fastener to prevent separation of the at least one connecting element from the first  
6 support.

20. The combination according to claim 19 wherein the exposed part of  
2 the fastener is threaded.

21. The combination according to claim 19 wherein the wall has a  
2 plurality of discrete openings through which the fastener can be selectively  
extended.

22. A connecting element for securing a portable article, the connecting  
2 element comprising:

a base that is one of a) connected to and b) connectable to a first support;

4 and

an arm projecting from the base and having a first leg and a second leg  
6 disposed transversely to the first leg,

the arm configured to captively overlies a portion of a portable article that is  
8 being secured,

at least a portion of the at least one connecting element at least one of a)  
10 is made from hardened metal material, b) has a stepped configuration, and c) has  
a shaped, non-flat surface so as to be resistant to bending.

23. The connecting element for securing a portable article according to  
2 claim 22 wherein the first support is integral with the base.

24. The connecting element for securing a portable article according to  
2 claim 22 wherein the first support is formed as one piece with the base.

2           25.     The connecting element for securing a portable article according to claim 23 wherein the arm and first support have facing surfaces between which a portable article being secured can be captively maintained.

2           26.     The connecting element for securing a portable article according to claim 22 wherein the connecting element has an integral fastener thereon.

2           27.     The connecting element for securing a portable article according to claim 26 wherein the fastener comprises a threaded element.

2           28.     The connecting element for securing a portable article according to claim 22 wherein the portion of the connecting element has a rib formed thereon defining the stepped configuration.